



UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

AH103

12/8/82

December 8, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: HA - Mr. Abrams

THRU: HA - Mr. Levitsky

FROM: HA/HR - Miss Tull

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade toDate ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐SUBJECT: Your Inquiry Re Embassy Action on the Discovery
of Gravesites in Argentina

Aryah Neier, in his letter to you of November 22, 1982 stated that the Embassy has been "dead silent" on the discovery of the unmarked gravesites (N.N. tombs) in Argentina that contain the bodies of persons who disappeared during the mid to late 1970's and were later killed by the security forces.

He is correct that as far as we know the Embassy has been publicly silent on this issue. This is not surprising. Nevertheless, on October 29 the acting political counselor called on the Undersecretary of the Interior, General Carlos Cerda, and the Ministry's Director General for Internal Security, Col. (retired) Carlos Alberto Tepedino, to discuss human rights developments (Buenos Aires 6275). Our officer was told that the Ministry has registered 6608 requests for the whereabouts of missing persons and provided information to families in 1425 cases, presumably including the location of the gravesites, though this is not explicitly stated in the cable. The Argentines do state, however, that human rights activists have been aware of the existence of these gravesites for some time and are only raising the issue at this time for political reasons. (Jo Marie Griesgraber, the Deputy Director of WOLA, told Bob Snyder on December 6, essentially the same thing, i.e., the gravesite issue is being raised now for political purposes, though she said it in an approving manner, indicating that it is appropriate in her view to raise the issue now in order to prevent certification.)

When this question first appeared in the press we cleared on press guidance saying that since the matter was being referred to the Argentine judiciary for investigation we did not believe it appropriate to comment.

Attachments:

1. Aryah Neier letter of November 22, 1982.
2. Buenos Aires 6275.

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